

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of creating a bacterial aggregate comprising the steps of:
combining planktonic bacterial cells with an effective amount of lectin,
wherein the amount of lectin is effective to bind the bacterial cells together in an aggregate;
and
coating the bacterial aggregate with a second mixture of bacteria and lectin,
whereby a lamellar aggregate is constructed.
2. (Original) An aggregate created by the method of claim 1.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the lectin is Concanavalin A.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the bacterial cells are homogeneous.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the bacterial cells are ~~heterogeneous~~ heterogeneous.
- 6.-7. (Cancelled)
8. (Original) A method of evaluating the efficacy of a biocide comprising the step of exposing the bacterial aggregate of claim 2 to the biocide and evaluating the viability of the bacterial cells within the aggregate.
9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of creating a microbial aggregate comprising the step of:

combining at least two distinct species of microbes with an effective amount of lectin, wherein the amount of lectin is effective to bind the microbes together in an aggregate.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the microbes comprise at least one member from the group consisting of bacteria, yeast and fungi.

12. (Original) An aggregate created by the method of claim 10.

13. (Original) A method of evaluating the efficacy of a biocide comprising the step of exposing the aggregate of claim 12 to the biocide and evaluating the viability of organisms within the aggregate.

14. (New) A method of creating a bacterial aggregate comprising the steps of:
combining planktonic bacterial cells with an effective amount of lectin,
wherein the amount of lectin is effective to bind the bacterial cells together as a core aggregate; and

coating the bacterial aggregate with a second mixture of bacteria and lectin,
whereby a shell comprised of the second bacteria forms over the core.

15. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the core is created under lectin excess.

16. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the shell is created under lectin deficiency.

17. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising coating the aggregate with a third mixture of bacteria and lectin, whereby a second shell comprised of the third bacteria forms over the first shell.